

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Sunrise Grill, 3830 Washington Rd. Martinez

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

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Volume 25, Number 7

THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

July 2025

Our next get-together is a dinner meeting; Thursday, July 17, 2025, early arrivals from 6:00 PM

Club Meeting Calendar for 2025

Jan. 16	May 15	Sep. 18
Feb. 20	June 19	Oct. 16
Mar. 20	July 17	Nov. 20
Apr. 17	Aug. 21	Dec. 18

The Advantage of attending Major Shows



An 1805 Draped Bust *disme*, JR-2, R2 graded AU-58 by NGC
[Enlarge the page on your computer's monitor screen to 200% to see the details more clearly.]

The writer attended his very first F.U.N. Show with his wife, Vilma in January 2002 shortly after moving down to the C.S.R.A and was amazed at the enormous number of dealers set up on the bourse floor at the Orlando, Florida Convention Center. He wasn't on the floor five minutes when he noticed the coin he was looking for, the 1805 Draped Bust disme shown directly above. The *disme* denomination at the time was 19 mm in diameter compared with just 17.9 mm today but was much thinner. When enlarged to 150%, the coin displays Robert Scot's attractive engraving of artist Gilbert Stuart portrait displaying Miss Liberty on the obverse with the Heraldic Eagle on the reverse. All early U.S. coinage was produced in fairly low numbers because silver was scarce and the population at the time was only 6,000,000, so in 1805, only 120,780 dismes were struck which was the most up to that period. The earlier dated dismes were coined in far less numbers from a low of just 8,265 struck produced with the 1804 date, (quite rare) to the 1807 with 160,500, the final date of this short series, (available for a price). The 1805 was the second largest of the short-run series but even back in 2002, an AU-58 specimen was costly, so one must save up considerably before attending a major coin show. There were two die varieties, one with four berries (on the left side) and the other with five berries--slightly scarcer- (on the right side). See below!



An 1805 Draped Bust half-cent, C-4, R2 graded VF -35
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 200% to see details more clearly.]

It was Alexander Hamilton, who back in 1792 while working with Thomas Jefferson on planning our first use of United States coinage believed that the smallest copper denomination half-cent would be helpful for working class Americans. Hamilton was right especially when the coin was used to make change for a disme-cost-item since the Latin American silver *Reales*--which was a silver coin worth 12½¢--was acceptable money in the United States back then.

The 1805 half-cent shown above was also acquired at the 2002 F.U.N. show but at a far less cost than the AU-58 graded 1805 disme. It is a lovely coin for the grade. The C-4 under the coin above represents numismatic scholar, Roger Cohen's research of half-cent die varieties with the C-4, being a less common die variety.

The copper half-cent design portraying Miss Liberty was also created by Robert Scot--our first chief Engraver--who used Gilbert Stuart's portrait supposedly of Anne Bingham--a lovely Philadelphian beauty--on all the obverses of our coinage.



An 1819 Capped Bust quarter B-1, R5 graded VF-20 by Anacs
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 200% to see details more clearly.]

At the same show, the writer also acquired the 1819, B-1, large 5 in date Capped Bust quarter which is considered a scarce die variety. The coin was designed by John Reich who replaced Robert Scot in mid 1807. His first Capped Bust quarter was released in 1815 but since our nation's silver supply was small, the quarter was not released again until 1818. The reported mintage for the 1819 quarter was 144,000 with two die varieties, a **small 9** in the date and a **large 9**, the scarcer of the two, which is why he acquired the latter.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

The Advantage of attending Major Shows

(Continued from page 1, column 2)



An 1832 smaller size Draped Bust quarter graded XF -40
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 200% to see details more clearly.]

The F.U.N. shows lasted four days from Thursday thru Sunday although most of the dealers with better quality coins left early Sunday morning and so did us, but on the Saturday before, the writer came across this attractive example of the **smaller sized Capped Bust quarter** and it was not expensive. The larger size quarter was last struck in 1828, the same year that the **newly released closed collar** was placed on some of the later Capped Bust dimes which were later added to enable the other coin denominations to retain their own widths, so when the quarter denomination was renewed in 1831, it was released with the new closed collar attachment, reduced in size from 27mm to 24.3mm, the same as today.



An 1810 Lettered Edge Capped Bust Half-dollar
Graded AU-50 by NGC

At the same 2002 F.U.N. show there was one more early U.S. coin denomination which the writer acquired and that was the 1810 fifty-cent piece shown above, graded AU-50.

During this period no silver dollars were being struck, so the largest silver denomination was the Lettered Edge Capped Bust half-dollar. It was called by that title because the edge of the coin was thick enough to display **50 CENTS OR HALF DOLLAR** engraved across it. Nevertheless, all the silver denominations of the period were created with the same Capped Bust on the obverse and the spread eagle on the reverse.

The Lettered Edge Capped Bust half-dollar was struck from mid 1807 thru mid 1836 in huge numbers except for the 1807, 1815, and 1820 dated pieces since it was mostly used not only as cash but also as "*specie*" to back major transactions in major businesses, building and land acquisitions; so most of the dates in this long running series are fairly common for eager collectors of this denomination type in grades from Fine-12 thru AU-50.

This writer acquired the coin above to add to his Capped Bust half-dollar date set--which like the later produced Morgan dollars series are also doable--without "breaking one's bank" as it were!

The 2002 F.U.N. show was both an exiting experience and a successful one since the writer enjoyed the show from the collector's prospective and his wife's from a historical one since as an Historian; she enjoyed learning about our coinage history.

Other Major Coin Shows



An 1800 Draped Bust dollar B-B-195, graded VF-35 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

The author attended his first **American Numismatic Association Convention** back in 1993. It was held at the huge Baltimore Convention Center in July/ August that summer and as usual it attracted many serious coin collectors. Before each major show the writer made a list of specific U.S. coins he hoped to acquire and naturally saved up enough money over the three to four months leading up to the event to afford the few coins on his want list he hoped to find, two of which a re shown.

The early U.S. Draped Bust dollar, with the Heraldic Shied on the reverse was engraved by Robert Scot. The coin was produced from 1798 thru 1803 but was suspended in early 1804, **(No actual 1804 dated dollars were coined until 1834)** The write'r was hoping to acquire one of the more common dates at the show (if one wants to refer any of the dates of that period to be common).

After making rounds along various dealers' tables he finally came across the Draped Bust dollar shown above, and although it was certified only Very Fine-35, the coin still appeared fairly attractive with all of the artistic aspects present. The die variety was BB-115 denoting only ten arrows on the reverse and is somewhat scarcer than those with 13 arrows. It cost plenty in 1993 but is worth four times higher today.



An 1839 Coronet type Large cent, N-2 graded XF-45
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

At the same show, the writer also acquired an attractive example of an 1839 Coronet large cent which was one of five major die varieties struck in that year with the same date; this design type being the most attractive of the five.

In order to assess the proper grading of large cents, one should first examine Miss Liberty's hair. This coin shows very little wear and it is the writer's opinion that it should have been graded at least AU-50, if not 55 since Miss Liberty's hair on the obverse appears extremely well defined as well as the leaves on the wreath on the reverse while the surfaces on the coin are smooth and mark-free.

This occurred back in 1993 when the collector was still living in New Jersey, and a ride to Baltimore from his home was less than three hours while the drive from the Central Savannah River Area to Orlando, Florida for the F .U.N. show took seven hours, but regardless of the distances and time it took, attending both shows were worth it.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

The Blue Ridge & Georgia Numismatic Club Shows



An 1875 silver 20c piece graded MS-62 by PCGS

[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 200% to see details more clearly.]

Many years later, in 2008, the writer decided to attend his first Blue Ridge Coin Show which usually occurred in mid to late August. The previous year, he and his wife, Vilma had stayed at a cabin in the eastern portion of northern Georgia and enjoyed driving through the beautiful mountain ranges and lake regions in that area.

He had not been on in the bourse floor of Dalton Convention Center long when he came across the 1875 silver twenty-cent piece shown above. Photographs of coins, especially smaller sized ones often do not come up as clearly to the viewer as the presenter would like. This is true of both the 1805 *disme* on page one and the fascinating 1875 Twenty-Cent piece or *Double-Dime* as the citizens living in our western states referred to it when the coin first appeared.

Because of the 20c piece's smaller size than either the half-dollars or dollar denominations, the writer believes it is essential that the readers transfer the monthly club JPE versions they receive on line to their own computer. When one increases the photo size of the 1875 20 cent piece to 150%, the coin shown directly above looks a lot clearer if still not perfect!

Why was this coin denomination produced in the first place?

Away back in 1n 1874, Senator John P. Jones of the state of Nevada proposed to Congress the production of a **twenty-cent silver coin** to be struck as small change since many westerners of the period preferred silver coinage to the nickel-metal coinage such as the three-cent and five cent pieces. His proposal was eventually approved by Congress in March of 1875 and shortly afterward, the first 1875 dated double-dimes (as the Westerners called the twenty-cent silver piece) were made. The new coin denomination was struck at all three mints that were then in operation as the New Orleans Mint was still closed since the start of the Civil War. The San Francisco Mint struck the most; 1,555,000, such as the example shown above, followed by the Carson City Mint, with 133,290 made and lastly, the Philadelphia, Mint which produced the least with just a scant 38,500, presumably because the Easterners preferred were used to the nickel coinage.

The Chief Engraver at the time was William Barber who was told to use Gobrecht's Liberty Seated design on the obverse while creating his stunning version of the majestic eagle on the reverse.

The 20 cent piece had a diameter of 22mm but since the quarter's was 24.3mm with both displaying the same Liberty Seated obverse--people soon began confusing the two due to their closeness in size with the result that after the 1876 issues were coined, the Philadelphia Mint produced only proof issues in 1877 and 1878 before terminating the denomination altogether. Today however, the twenty-cent piece is in strong demand by serious collectors due in part to its short period of use. Over another few years, the collector was able to acquire all four examples from each Mint including the 1876 twenty-cent piece struck only at the Philadelphia mint in quite small numbers.



An 1892 Barber Liberty-Head Half-dollar FS-801, Triple die Reverse graded MS-62

[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 200% to see details more clearly.]

At the same Blue Ridge Show, the writer came across this attractive 1892 first year issue of the Liberty Half dollar which was created by Charles Barber, the son of William Barber who had passed away in 1879. The Philadelphia Mint's first year issue was a mintage of 934,000 and considered a common date since many were put aside as a souvenir, but in addition to the grade, the coin was also dubbed as a **"triple die variety"** on the reverse which supposedly made the coin scarcer and therefore more valuable. The problem is that despite professional grading, the appearance of triple figures on the reverse can be hardly seen. Regardless how it is played out once one decides to sell; the coin shown above is extremely attractive and very popular with collectors who enjoy collecting Barber's coinage designs.



A 1929-D Half-dollar graded MS-63 by PCGS

[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

The author didn't get around to attending the Georgia Numismatic Association show until 2009 which is held at the same location as the Blue Ridge Show. Dalton is a four hour drive from Augusta. As a result, the writer was able to purchase the 1929-D shown above which is one of the more difficult dates of the series to acquire and the example shown has lots of eye appeal.



An 1875-S Lib. Std. dime certified MS-62 by PCGS

In 2010, at the same hosted show, the writer came across this charming 1875-S Liberty Seated dime which he was able to add to the 1875 year set that he was trying to complete. That year the mintmark on the reverse of the coin was struck either above the bottom of the wreath or directly under the wreath at the bottom of the coin which in this case is slightly scarcer. The example shown displays the latter although it is difficult for the viewer to see it without enlarging the page by 200%

Attending both the Blue Ridge Numismatic Assoc. and Georgia Numismatic Assoc. shows were a pleasure two-fold since after each one, Vilma and I would spend a week at a cabin up in the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains.

(Continued on page 4, column one)

The South Carolina Numismatic Association Convention



An 1807/6 Draped Bust Large cent, S-273, R1d graded VF-30
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

The closest major annual coin show to the CSRA (for Central Savannah River Area) is the **South Carolina Numismatic Association show** that is usually held near the end of October in **Greenville, South Carolina** which is about a **two hour and ten minute drive from Augusta, GA over beautiful back roads before getting on to I-85.**

The **1807/6 copper large cent** shown directly above was acquired by the writer at one of the earlier shows he and his wife Vilma attended back in **2006.**

Our earliest large cents coined beginning in 1793 thru 1814 were the workhorse of the economy back then and were heavily used, so acquiring an uncirculated large cent from that period in U.S. history is few and far between and extremely expensive in today's numismatic marketplace, so one is fortunate to come across example grading VF-30 which still appears halfway decent. Upon enlarging the photo of the coin shown above to 150% on one's computer the coin looks far more attractive.

During the early years of our nation's coinage over dates were fairly common such as the **8/7** on the date of the coin shown above.



An 1829 Capped Bust half-dollar, O-104a R3+ graded XF-40+ by NGC
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

The 1829 half-dollar shown above was also acquired at that same SCNA show held away back in 2006. What made it an interesting acquisition was its pedigree since it was once owned by the renowned major coin collector, Jules Reiver. Again, when enlarged to 150%, all of the items on the coin appear clearly visible with the exception of the motto, **E PLURIBUS UNUM** on the reverse which is partially shown.



An 1879 \$2.50 Quarter-eagle graded AU-58 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

The following year, **2007**, the writer returned to the SCNA show and picked up two \$2.50 gold Quarter Eagles, one of them being the 1879 example shown above and an attractive specimen to boot!



A 1908 \$5.00 half-eagle graded MS-61 by NGC
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

When the writer attended the SCNA show the following year in late October, **2008**, he came across a **1908** five dollar Half-eagle first created in 1839 by Christian Gobrecht that was now a century old and with a mintage of 421,874, it is a very common date, but it was the last time the design type would be coined since later in the year, it would be replaced by Bella Lyon Pratt's Indian Head \$5.00 gold type. The Liberty Head type coin cost only \$350. Today it has doubled in value. Considering it was graded only MS-61, the example still radiates lots of eye appeal. **So much for attending major coin shows for now!**

AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC.

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 19, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Sunrise Grill by President, Shelby Plooster. We had 40 members present and 2 guests present.

The Secretary's Report:

The May 16, 2025 minutes were not read. A copy is kept on file.

The Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was sent by email from Stacey Plooster. We have \$21,601.35 deposited in the checking account.

The Prize Winners:

The winner of the 50/50 raffle for \$52.00 was Geri Putnam with Bob Cunningham with Tom Burke each winning a 2015 1 oz. Silver Eagle

Our Spring Coin Show was held at the Columbia County Exhibition Center located at the Grovetown Walmart at exit 190. Mr. Sammy Lucky provided our postcards. Thank you, Mr. Lucky! Our profit from the 2025 spring Show was over \$2000.00 as reported by our Bourse Chairman, Steve Nix. Great job Steve and Connie Nix! It was one of our best shows ever!

Show and Tells:

Shelby Plooster displayed a 1915 toned proof 65 Barber Quarter.

Arno Safran pointed out problem free graded coins shown in our newsletter and coin shows.

Everett Price displayed a 2025 MS 70 Silver Eagle with a privy mark.

(The Club Minutes continue on page 5, column one.)

AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC. MINUTES OF MEETING

June 19, 2025

(The June 2025 club meeting minutes continued)

The Program:

New member, Gene Belair, gave a PowerPoint program on "Queen Victoria, Her Majesty's portraits on the tokens and coins of Canada." Queen Victoria's reign was from 1837 until 1901. Gene displayed magnificent examples of coins and tokens from Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward's Island. The half-penny and one penny tokens were technically coins. He explained that during this period, coins were scarce; therefore tokens were used as coins.

Shelby Plooster gave Gene a certificate for his fine program.

New Business:

Burles Johnson reported we will have a BBQ dinner at our July meeting.

Old Business:

Perfect attendance has been suspended. The 2026 books from Leaphart Coins will be available for a cost of \$12. Program givers will be awarded two Silver Eagles instead of a 1/10 oz. gold coin.

Members, please remember to pay your dues if you haven't done so. This was the outcome of our Board of Directors Meeting held s back on February 18, 2025 as rent to use the Sunrise Grill was raised from 50 dollars a meeting to 200 dollars a meeting. President Shelby Plooster stated you must be a paid member to win a door prize.

Coin Shows:

Atlanta Monthly Show July 13, 2025
Marietta, GA

Summer Fun Show July 9-13, 2025
Orlando, Fla

Ladson Coin Show July 27-29, 2025
Ladson, SC

Raleigh NC Show June 27-29, 2025
Raleigh, NC

Our monthly club Coin Auction:

Burles Johnson ran the auction (10 lots).
Everette Price and Shelby Plooster delivered the goods as the

*Respectively Submitted,
John Thomas Attaway*

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